

# THE DAILY TIMES.

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PAGE McCARTY, - - EDITOR.

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ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

TUESDAY, - - - - JANUARY 18.

We refer to the advertisement in another column of Mr. Dorsheimer's able and patriotic paper the *New York Star*.

That is simply a piece of piratical legislation attempted in a bill to give fishermen of all the States the same fishing privileges in the waters of any State as the natives of that State. Of course it would be a nice scheme for Virginia rivers to support the fishermen of a dozen Northern States. N. B.—This is satire.

Lecocq, the French composer, explains that American taste is felt in Paris, and that the playwright and operatic composer feel that immoral and vulgar witticism blocks the success of stage works in both England and America. The American market for French musical and dramatic art may be said, therefore, to reflect its tone on European circles, and with good effect.

In the coal-handlers' strike the riotous men who propose to stop others who want to work are hardly worse than the companies that are reported as failing in proper efforts to resume business, in order to command an exorbitant price for the coal on hand. Speculation of that sort is criminal, and it is a pity that there is not a law against it as positive as the one that reaches the rioters.

Levi P. Morton has set his heart, or rather his pocket, on the senatorship. His friends do not claim for him any other merit than the prestige of a Congressman and an ex-minister to France, in both of which posts he dispensed a lavish hospitality commensurate to his check-book and his taste for style. New York may well lament over the chance that Mr. Morton may be her Senator after "Me Too" Platt and Miller.

The *Sun* thinks that the choice of Senator which was to come off last night in the Republican caucus at Albany only brings attention to the fact that if the Republicans had not systematically violated the Constitution of the State a Democrat would be Mr. Evans' colleague; and it adds: "If the things that are done by the Republicans of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey were to be done by the Democrats of Georgia, South Carolina, and Mississippi, a heaven-piercing howl of indignation would arise from Republican virtue in the Senate, and the first express train to the South would be loaded with a full-sized investigating committee."

"The Commercial Club" of Chicago, quietly bought a tract of ground near the city and moved on Congress with a plan to accept it for the purpose of erecting a fortified garrison for a military station of United States troops. The quiet gentlemen of the "Commercial Club" had quietly determined among themselves that policemen and militia were not a match for Anarchists in case of trouble, and this was the proposed way to better Chicago's condition of defense. A resolution was put forward in the Senate last year to cover the scheme, but it was pigeon-holed in a committee. It has appeared again in the House and been favorably reported by the Military Committee. But it will have a stormy time when debated on the floor.

## GALVANIC RESUSCITATION.

The *Inter-Appeal* advances the flag of free citizenship and all its rights in an able article against the scheme of persecution involved in resurrecting the dead laws against barratry and chancery, and very properly remarks that they had just as well indict the newspapers that published the advertisements of the coupon-sellers. As to the galvanic resuscitation of the old laws it says:

"Of course these acts are even dearer than the ancient and alien laws they seek to establish among us. They can have no practical force, for every just and reasonable consideration is against them. Besides the private right and interest which the bondholders have in asserting the recoverability for taxes of every coupon refused, the right and interest involved is a public one in which any citizen of Virginia, at least, has a sufficient share to constitute him a party to any suit involving this recoverability; and his contribution to any such suit is just as legal as if he were a party to the record."

## CONGRESS.

The short session of Congress is more than half through, and the record is good as to the business done. The inter-State commerce bill has passed the Senate as reported from the Conference Committee, and in spite of a stubborn fight to be made by the railroad interests in the House it is expected to go through. The statesmen in the popular branch of Congress have caught the idea that there is a popular feeling all over the country among the voting classes in favor of the provisions relative to the "long and short hauls," and the one against "pooling."

This fixes the bill in defiance of the powerful lobby. The Railroad Commission will have large discretionary powers, and can take into consideration the peculiar circumstances when a railway has to carry freight in competition with a water line. Perhaps the enactment of the law will induce a grand contest on the part of the railroads against its requirements. They would be backed by such bodies as the New York Chamber of Commerce, which takes a clear and sensible view of the difficulties of rating freight the same for the long and short haul.

The electoral-count bill, which has been in conference committee, has been put in shape to command the assent of the representatives of both houses, and will be reported some time during the present week. There is little doubt of its passage, and with it we shall have provision against dangers of a very grave character and the recurrence of conspiracies such as that of 1876.

The Mexican pension bill will doubtless be brought up this week.

The bill for relieving honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, disabled in war, will have the precedence.

With regard to tariff reform, it is noticeable that there is a lack of vigor, and as the days pass every delay indicates dodging.

Stanley is expected to start on Thursday with his expeditionary force to rescue Emin Bey in Central Africa, and will take the Congo route which he regards as the most expeditious. The only thing is, can Emin Bey hold out until Stanley reaches him.

## SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

### The Mail Service.

"The men who have charge of the system in Washington are not in sympathy with the Administration. That is what is the matter. The head of the department seems to lack the nerve to take hold of the matter with the firmness and decision so much needed."—*Atlanta Constitution*.

The Constitution has got hold of the thing by the throat. There is no doubt that in more departments than one the Republican underlings have an organized scheme for defeating the popularity and success of the Democratic Administration.

We all remember the affair of the postal-railway clerks forming a plan to threaten a strike if one of their number was discharged.

The yarn told by the captain of the schooner *Parallel* has a scent of a put-up job. He left his vessel because he feared that she would drift on the rocks, but there was wind enough to have kept her off, and the crew, on a clear and calm night, rowed to a distant landing, instead of directly to the beach near at hand. There were no signals of distress given.

The insurance was good, and it looks like a trick played for booze.

The Parisians enjoyed an alleged Spanish bull fight the other day at Landaise. The toreros did not know how to ride, and the young bulls did not fight; in fact, two of the taurine champions were young heifers. But the costumes were of the original gorgeous pattern and color, and altogether it was a dude bull fight, and, as such, a success.

Professor Adler draws a pathetic picture of what he calls child-slavery, and by the show of statistics illustrates a terrible sort of tyranny in the work imposed on children of tender years without even giving them wages or benefit for their labor.

General William B. Hazen, chief signal officer, popularly known as Old Prob, is just dead.

He was a regular army officer and served with distinction in the civil war, especially at the battle of Chancellorsville, where it was officially noted by his credit that his brigade was the "last to leave the field."

"Pigeon English," which the Celestials use to make connection with foreigners of all countries, means only business English, as pigeon is the nearest he can come to the pronunciation of business.

Now, for pity's sake give us a rest. His ghost stalks on the Plutonian shore, and people don't want to hear his bones rattled for a castanet by new boys, or any more advertising by criminal sensation.

M. De Lesseps talks flippancy about completing his Panama canal, and then, if it should be found necessary, putting in a lock that would cost \$30,000,000.

## Political Dipsypsia.

We raise our hat to the Norfolk *Virginian* when it endorses the Richmond *Times* for saying:

"A debt settlement brings no additional taxes. It re-establishes the reputation of our State, and brings capital here to develop our resources. The policy that organizes a sensation against creditors is the dipsypsia of the old fogism that cannot digest its responsibilities. Virginia has tried secession and nullification and has made a contract to let them alone. Our National Government under Democratic control is a pride to every patriotic citizen, and to denounce its authority as corrupt is nonsense."—*Inter-Appeal*

## MONEYMANIACS OF NEW YORK.

### Peculiar Habits of a Rich Man—Miseries and Deprivations of Misers.

There is a sunken-eyed old man whom I meet every night that I stroll up Fifth Avenue somewhere between Washington square and Twenty-third street. I must have known this phantom a good fifteen years. He lives in a garret within a stone's throw of the square, and is the owner of much valuable property. In the early days of our acquaintance I used to encounter him strolling in the park munching a French roll, crumb by crumb. This was his breakfast. If he eats another meal it is probably of the same order. His dress is that of a vagrant, but his conversation is that of an educated man. He is especially happy in recounting reminiscences of the New York of two generations ago, and has traveled a couple of miles at a time with me to point out vanished landmarks in which I happened to be interested. I won his regard early by giving him car fare after each of these jaunts. He pouched the money and walked back.

This man is a true miser, but not a beggar. A much more complete specimen is another old fellow whom I got to know while making notes in the Astor library. He carried crusts of bread in his pocket and ate them bit by bit as he huddled over his book all day long. His miserable dress, his haggard face and wasted figure inspired me with pity and I opened an acquaintanceship with him. When I worked all day I was in the habit of lunching in a convenient beer shop of Bohemian renown, and I once invited him to join me. Thereafter he did it daily without invitation. When my work at the library was finished he got to haunting my house. Every evening he would lie in wait for me and levy toll to the sum of a dime for his dinner, as he said. One night a prominent real estate agent came up as I was making this contribution and greeted my pensioner by name. When he had shuffled off the agent laughed at me for my modest liberality. I learned from him that my haggard friend was a retired real estate speculator and worth at least half a million in property. He lived, and indeed lives still, in a hallway which he has converted into a sort of bedroom in the basement of one of his own houses. The rest of the basement is let out to a rag and paper man, so that the miser is in congenial quarters.

There are two moneymaniacs that I know so well that I have been able to make some curious studies of their characters and habits. I could hardly count those whom I know casually or merely by sight or repute. They come of all grades and walks of life. There are among them men who were originally merchants, lawyers, doctors of medicine and of divinity, mechanics and even common laboring men. The miseries they subject themselves to are quite incredible. Each man has his own shifts and devices, and each his pet mania. One gathers pins as if they were gold, and travels with his shabby breast stuck so full of them that it looks like a pincushion. Another collects advertising doggers with an avidity that would do honor to bank bills. They seem to be under the pressure of an incessant craze to acquire something or nothing, however worthless it may be, and probably experience as acute a pang at the loss of a pin or a hand-bill as they would at that of one of their hoarded dollars.—*Alfred Trumble in New York News*.

### Luck of a Musical Genius.

Spencer, the man who wrote the opera "Little Tycoon," is a queer genius. He is a mild sort of religious crank and used to sing in the choir in a country town in New Jersey. He offered his opera to everybody in America who had ever produced comic opera, but they all refused to touch it until he struck George Bartholomew, of the Temple theatre, Philadelphia, who agreed to put it on the stage. It is said that Spencer almost fainted when Bartholomew told him he would do it, and went around among his friends for days afterward telling of his good luck and always shedding tears during the recital.

One day while he was trying to induce a couple of managers in New York to take hold of his opera, he felt so certain that they would do so that he spent all but 50 cents of the last \$3 he had in the world for a bottle of wine, in the hope that it would help to mellow their hearts and clinch the bargain. When they had drunk the wine they refused to accept his opera, and Spencer was in despair. He bought a supper and then walked the streets all night because he did not have enough money left to buy a bed. In speaking of the matter afterward he exclaimed pathetically: "Just think of it! I spent nearly the last cent I had on those fellows, and even then they couldn't produce my opera." As it only cost something like \$15,000 to produce the cruelty of the managers is apparent.—*Pioneer Press "Listener."*

### The Prevailing Stage Superstitions.

It is well known that in no profession are superstitions more prevalent than in the dramatic. They are not at all admitted superstitions, but they still exist to greater or less degree. Augustin Daly has recently named his new play "Love in Harness." He tries always to get three names into his titles "for luck," and so his play bills give "A Night Off," "Love on Crutches," "Nancy & Co.," "After Business Hours," etc. Lester Wallack, it is said, has a superstition that death scenes are unlucky, and he will not permit them on his stage. Gilbert and Sullivan were at one time reported to have a superstitious predilection for pieces that began with P, and even at first gave their "Mikado" the name of "Poochah," so that it might follow the successes of "Pinafore," "Patience," "Pirates of Penzance," "Princess and Peri" ("Iolanthe") and "Princess Ida." The latest instance of superstition is the refusal of a New York manager to open with his new star, Marguerite Fish, on December 13, because 13 is unlucky. As the 13th comes on a Monday, however, a good many plays must open on that day.—*Hartford Times*.

### Bootmaking Extraordinary.

The celebrated Chicago sausage machine has been eclipsed. In this machine the pig, it will be recollected, is said to enter at one end and on the whisk of a handle to emerge in sausage. The Vienna papers are making merry over a bet made a day or two ago by a celebrated shoemaker in that city. He undertook from a given calf to manufacture a pair of boots within twenty-four hours of the animal's death. The conditions were made and a committee was appointed to see that they were duly carried out. Large stakes were put into the hands of an impartial stakeholder. Early in the morning of the appointed day a calf was killed in the presence of numerous witnesses. The skin was at the tannery at noon; it was properly tanned and turned over to one of the most skillful hands of the spirited shoemaker for every evening, and next morning it reappeared in the shape of a pair of boots, which were won by the man who owned the calf that had carried the skin the day before.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The Mexican army has 100,000 soldiers.

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## The Virginia State Debt.

To the People of Virginia:

At a meeting of Virginia bondholders, convened by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, and held on Friday, the 24th of September, 1886, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That this meeting deplores the long contest into which the bondholders have been forced for the maintenance of their rights, and, while asserting its steadfast determination not to accept the Riddielerger settlement, which, in view of the admitted ability of Virginia to settle with her creditors, and the sacrifices they have already made on her behalf, it considers dishonest and unjust, hereby expresses its willingness to meet the State and purchase the bonds of the State at the present market value, on the reasonable compromise based upon the present taxation and the available revenue, after providing for the Constitutional appropriation for government, schools, and other public expenditure."

The State had the benefit of the whole of the money she originally borrowed (\$34,000,000). It laid the foundation of her roads, railways, and canals, and has brought millions of dollars into the country. Had you not constructed these public works with the bondholders' money you would have to be taxed now for them.

No State which borrowed money ever enjoyed the benefit of its loans more than Virginia has done. [See Senate Document XXIV, Session, 1877-78.]  
The present unsettled condition of the debt is keeping capital and immigration out of Virginia, and as long as matters so continue you will never develop the splendid resources of the State in the way they deserve.  
The revenue of Virginia is increasing. The last assessment shows an increase of \$55,000,000 in taxable values. Your present revenue might be largely increased if the taxes were more carefully collected and the present assessments on property equalized throughout the State.

What might have been difficult to do a few years ago is easy now, and each year the burden will become lighter. When the debt question is settled capital and enterprise, which now holds aloof, will flow into the State.

The settlement offered by the bondholders provides that the bonds now in existence bearing tax-receivable coupons should be deposited in some trust company; that new bonds should be issued in their place, bearing no tax-receivable coupons, and at a low rate of interest. When the State pays a half-year's interest on the new bonds, the tax-receivable coupons for that half-year should be cut off the old bonds by the trust company, cancelled, and delivered to the State. Any increase on the present revenue will be appropriated by the State, and the bondholders will not have any claim on it.

There was a cash balance last July in the Treasury of \$75,000, and the average purchase of Riddielerger's by the State has been at the rate of \$600,000 per annum in cash. The State has some millions of dollars of assets which would help her in arranging a settlement.

The bondholders are as deeply interested as you are in maintaining the credit and prosperity of your State. They ask for a fair hearing and a discussion of the question by business men, and not by politicians, whose interest it is to prevent an understanding being arrived at and an honorable compromise made.

The best way of bringing about this settlement is for taxpayers to tender coupons in payment of their taxes. In view of the conciliatory spirit and liberal offer made by the creditors I venture respectfully to submit to you that it is your moral duty, as well as your legal right and privilege, to tender coupons for taxes now due. JAMES P. COOPER, no26

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